NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

For Week Ending July 16, 2000

Issued by the NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Issue: 20-2000
Released: 7/17/2000 3:00 p.m.

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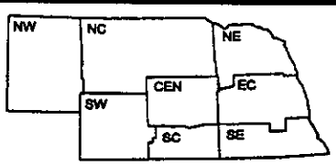
National Agricultural Statistics Service
U S. Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admn.
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Agriculture
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WEATHER

Temperatures for the State averaged two to six degrees above normals for the week. Precipitation occurred across the State with amounts ranging from traces to over three inches.

GENERAL

Last week's scattered rainfall and higher humidity only temporarily slowed wheat harvest and continued to provide additional growth potential to spring planted crops, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. In many areas, limited rainfall this past week provided another temporary "moisture fix". Producers continued to use irrigation systems according to crop need, water availability, and fuel costs. Producer activities also included harvesting hay and oats, and livestock care.

CROPS

The winter wheat crop continued to move quickly toward the end of harvest with 95% of the acreage cut to date, compared with 62% last year and 45% for the 5-year average.

Corn condition declined slightly last week and rated 10% very poor, 14% poor, 25% fair, 38% good, and 13% excellent. Irrigated corn was virtually unchanged at 66% good to excellent while dryland corn declined further to 27% good to excellent. Forty-six percent of the crop had reached the silking stage, well ahead of last year at 17% and the average at 19%. Reports indicated that a few fields have reached the dough stage.

CROPS Cont.

Soybean condition rated 6% very poor, 12% poor, 30% fair, 39% good, and 13% excellent. Blooming had occurred on 61% of the crop acreage as of Sunday, ahead of 38% last year and 29% average. By week's end, 15% had set pods, compared to 3% last year and 1% average.

Sorghum condition rated 8% very poor, 14% poor, 32% fair, 37% good, and 9% excellent. The crop was 14% headed as of Sunday, well ahead of 4% last year and 1% average.

Oat condition rated 26% very poor, 23% poor, 17% fair, 22% good, and 12% excellent Harvest was 59% complete and compares with 27% last year and 19% average.

Dry bean condition rated 6% very poor, 13% poor, 41% fair, 30% good, and 10% excellent. About 59% of the crop had bloomed by week's end, with 21% setting pods.

Alfalfa harvest of the second cutting progressed to 81% complete, compared to 66% last year and 50% average. Condition of the crop rated at 21% very poor, 18% poor, 28% fair, 30% good, and 3% excellent. Wild hay condition rated 21% very poor, 30% poor, 31% fair, 16% good, and 2% excellent.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition declined and rated 32% very poor, 35% poor, 27% fair, and 6% good. Some pastures have benefitted from recent rainfall, but most continue in a drought state and can provide only limited grass regrowth. Some producers continued to move cattle off pastures, provide supplemental hay and/or protein, or move cattle to market The week's heat and humidity stressed livestock in and out of confinement buildings.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF JULY 16, 2000		AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
		NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
		PERCENT											
% Corn Silked		6	27	42	46	66	16	40	76	46	14	17	19
% Wheat Harvested		90	94	72	86	91	98	100	99	95	71	62	45
% Soybeans Blooming		n/a	58	54	47	72	17	18	84	61	26	38	29
% Soybeans Setting Pods		n/a	0	8	17	11	0	0	26	15	2	3	1
% Sorghum Headed		n/a	0	0	4	7	0	0	19	14	0	4	1
% Dry Beans Blooming		68	65	25	45	30	35	35	31	59	21	18	16
% Alfalfa Second Cutting		47	85	86	74	91	65	90	95	81	59	66	50
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF JULY 14, 2000													
Days Suitable		5 8	7 0	6 2	6 6	6.8	6 8	7.0	6.7	6 6	5 2	6 5	
Topsoil Moisture	- Very short	57	30	27	43	39	70	31	7	38	28	1	
	- Short	39	52	33	38	31	22	35	38	36	30	28	
	- Adequate	4	18	38	19	30	8	34	55	26	40	70	
	- Surplus	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	
Subsoil Moisture-	- Very Short	13	21	35	63	57	71	65	82	48	38	1	
	- Short	51	54	40	29	43	22	35	15	37	35	12	
	- Adequate	36	25	23	8	0	7	0	3	15	26	85	
	- Surplus	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	

n/a = not available.

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (USPS 679-770, ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March in Lincoln, Nebraska, and from other additional offices, by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508 Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P O Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for $15 00 per year to non-reporters It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3 30 p m CT Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE & at additional entry offices POSTMASTER Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P. O Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501

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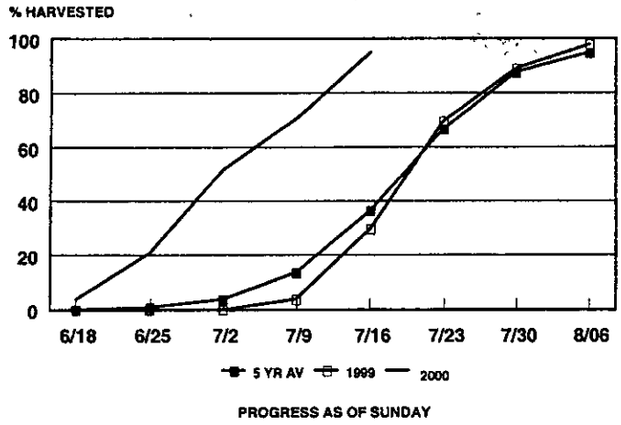
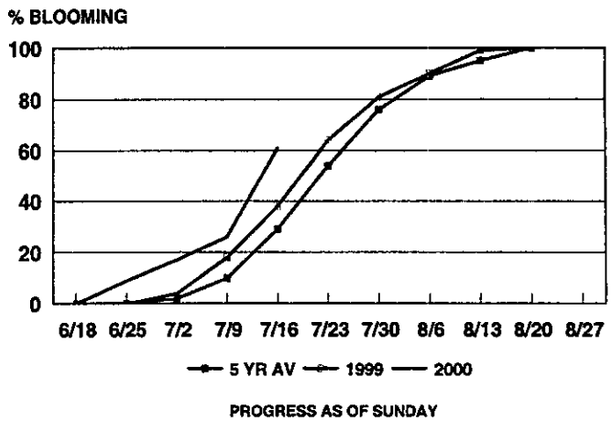
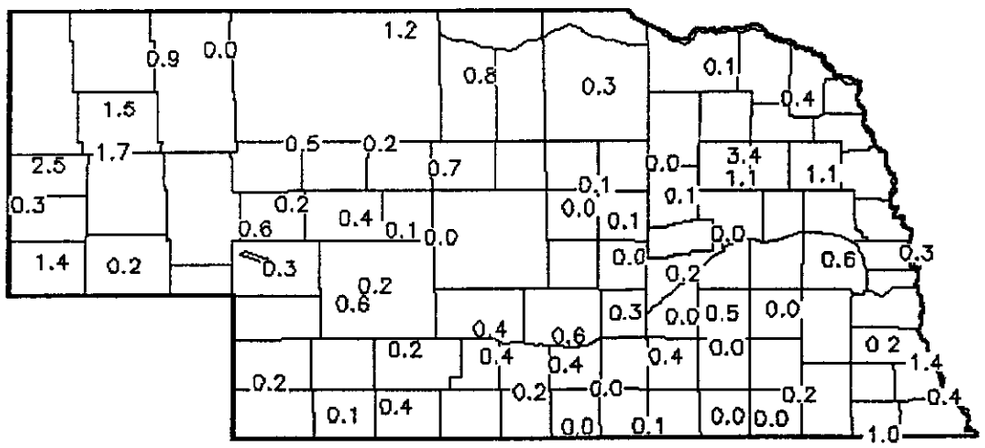
WINTER WHEAT HARVESTED FOR GRAIN



SOYBEANS BLOOMING



PRECIPITATION IN INCHES FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 2000



Source: High Plains Climate Center

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - JULY 16, 2000

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.76	.32	1.11	.27	.33	.53	.65	.23
Total since April 1	8.60	9.54	13.59	8.52	11.73	4.58	9.74	10.82
Normal since April 1	8.97	10.53	11.98	11.62	12.70	9.99	11.40	12.71
Total as % of normal	96%	91%	113%	73%	92%	46%	85%	85%

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2000

	Station	Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	105	56	79	—	1.07	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	103	57	79	+5	.43	160	1381	1252
	Sidney	99	57	78	---	.94	182	1355	1284
NC	Valentine	101	56	78	+3	1.18	—	—	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	—	163	1341	1351
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	—	176	1412	1453
NE	Norfolk	93	64	80	+5	2.10	---	---	---
	Sioux City	92	62	78	+2	.98	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	—	181	1499	1492
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	—	179	1473	1492
	West Point	---	---	---	---	—	185	1560	1581
CEN	Grand Island	99	62	82	+5	T	184	1596	1512
	Ord	101	60	80	---	.48	180	1511	1499
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	185	1565	1495
EC	Lincoln	96	63	81	+3	T	194	1738	1662
	Omaha	94	67	80	+4	.78	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	180	1593	1537
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	186	1637	1638
SW	Imperial	103	63	82	---	.25	---	---	---
	North Platte	102	61	80	+6	.32	174	1519	1403
	Curtis	---	---	---	---	---	182	1552	1428
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	182	1548	1483
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	197	1771	1531
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	184	1698	1663
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	182	1578	1527

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is. Max. temp. + min temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln N/A = not available.